Wood Park (Sayers-Oman House)

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The information was compiled from the following sources:

- National Register Properties, Williamson County, Tennessee, by The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County and the Williamson County Historical Society, ©1995, page 86.
- Photos from the personal collection of Vance Little, circa 1950s.
- Research and recollections of Vancé Little, 2008

The Sayers-Oman house, more commonly known as Wood Park, is located on Splitlog Road. It was built in 1845 by James J. Sayers, who was born in 1801 and moved to Williamson County in the early 1800s. In the 1840s he purchased the farm where the house is located. When he built the home, it was one of the largest homes in central Williamson County. The solid walls in the home are thirteen inches thick. The bricks for the home were formed on site.

Ester Crocket married a Sayers back during the early history of Brentwood but the connection to James J. Sayers is not fully understood. Ester Crockett was known for marrying a man who was 20 years her senior. As a Crocket, she had eight children. Her next marriage was to a Sayers where she subsequently had three more children. This time the tables turned. Her second husband was 20 years her junior. Both the Crockett and Sayers families were from Wythe County, Virginia and had a long history of intermarriage and close relationship. As early settlers to Tennessee, the families obtained some of the best land and built some of the best houses. Crockett houses in particular are well known and include Knox-Crockett House, Forge Seat, Crockett Springs, and Midway.

The Sayers-Oman home is featured in the book National Register Properties, Williamson County, Tennessee and has the following description: "...typical of the type built in Middle Tennessee by wealthy landowners of the mid-19th century with its two-story portico with four Doric-style square columns on the main façade. On the second story of the portico is a balcony with turned balusters. The pediment features dentils, and dentil molding continues along the eaves. The main entrance has the original double doors, single-light sidelights and single-light transom. Fluted Doric pilasters divide the doors and side-lights. The residence is organized in a central passage ell plan with the original breezeway and two-story kitchen arranged laterally to the ell. The breezeway between the main house and the kitchen has its original Doric-motif columns, lattice siding and brick flooring."

By 1859, Sayers was listed as owning 540 acres. Both he and his wife, Ann Marie Talifero Sayers, as well as a daughter, were school teachers. Their son was a doctor and both a school house and doctor's office were maintained on the property. James Sayers died in 1865 and his descendants owned the property until 1941 when it was sold to the Oman family.

The home was purchased in 2005 by the Taramore subdivision and serves as the neighborhood clubhouse and underwent an extensive renovation. Unfortunately, the original breezeway connector to the kitchen was lost during the renovation.



Both photos are from the personal collection of Vance Little and were taken in the early 1950s. Note the covered breezeway leading to the kitchen in the photo below.





(photo by Randy Lee)

This photo of the right side as facing the house was taken on February 23, 2008 during the renovation converting the home to the neighborhood clubhouse for the Taramore subdivision. The new large open room (painted white) extends back to where the old breezeway connected to the two story kitchen to the main house.



JAMES J. SAYERS HOUSE Splitlog Road Franklin, Tennessee

Property #139

Sayers House: 1845 home with original kitchen breezeway intact

The James Sayers House is a fine example of a brick central-passage-plan residence with Greek Revival detailing. Constructed ca. 1845, the Sayers House is one of only a few antebellum homes in Williamson County which retains its original kitchen breezeway connector.

The house was constructed by James J. Sayers, who was born in 1801 and moved to Williamson County with his parents in the early 1800s. By the 1840s Sayers had purchased large amounts of land. He settled on this farm in 1844. Soon after, Sayers constructed his two-story brick home, one of the largest houses in the central section of the county. Sayers and his family prospered in the mid 19th-century, and by 1859 he was listed as owning 540 acres. Sayers died in 1865, but his descendants continued to own the house until 1942.

The James J. Sayers House is typical of the type built in Middle Tennessee by wealthy landowners of the mid-19th century with its two-story portico with four Doric-style square columns on the main facade. On the second story of the portico is a balcony with turned balusters. The pediment features dentils, and dentil molding continues along the eaves. The main entrance has its original double doors, single-light sidelights and single-light transom. Fluted Doric pilasters divide the doors and sidelights.

The residence is organized in a central passage ell plan with the original breezeway and two-story kitchen arranged laterally to the ell. The breezeway between the main house and the

kitchen has its original Doric-motif columns, lattice siding and brick flooring.

The James J. Sayers House has been eligible for inclusion with the National Register of Historic Places since 1988, but is currently not on the Register.

